

\$10 REWARD

We shall give \$10.00 in gold as a first prize, and \$5.00 as a second prize, to the boy or girl under eighteen years of age writing the best poem of two or more verses, using the MONARCH RANGE as subject of the poem. All poems to be handed in before 6 P. M. on February 16, 1905.

CHARLES HEILBORN & SON

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Today's Weather.

Portland, Jan. 17.—Western Oregon and Western Washington—Wednesday, increasing cloudiness followed by rain.

CLOSING THE FAIR.

Appropos of the proposition of closing the gates of the Lewis and Clark fair on Sunday, the following has been received on the subject:

"With the greatest admiration for your stand on Sunday observance yet I cannot unqualifiedly indorse the position of the Astorian on advocating keeping the gates of the Lewis and Clark fair open on Sunday. Sunday has been ordained as a day of rest, the blessed Master, recognizing the necessity of setting apart one day as a day of rest, incorporated in the ten commandments, 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.' God's commandments should be obeyed, as they are higher than the law of nations."

Either the theological editor of the Astorian is mistaken, or contributor is. From a slight remembrance of the ten commandments inculcated in years gone by, our understanding was that the ten commandments were promulgated from Mt. Sinai by Moses, and that "the blessed Master" was not on earth at that time. That might have been the law of Moses, but there has been a change in sentiment during the past ten thousand years. Polygamy was taught and practiced in the day of Moses and from this comes the inspiration of the Mormons. The attention of subscriber is called to some sayings of the "Blessed Master" which shows a change of sentiment and a more liberal construction of Sunday observance.

"And he said unto them, the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath."—Mark ii:27. In other words that the Sabbath was to be observed according to the dictates of one's own conscience, and this is further exemplified in the following:

"One man esteemeth one day above another; another esteemeth every day alike. Let each man be fully assured in his own mind."—Romans xiv:5. According to this doctrine, Sabbath observance was left to the opinion of man himself, without any dictation from the church. Probably the best argument that can be adduced effecting the right of some people to dictate to all mankind the same as the advocates of closing the gates of the Lewis and Clark fair on Sunday are attempting to do, is embodied in the following:

"Let no man, therefore, judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a feast day, or a new moon, or a Sabbath day."—Colossians ii:16.

A strict interpretation of the above leaves the selection of a feast day, or what a man shall eat or drink, or what day he shall observe as Sunday, to the individual conscience of the man himself. If there is no harm in running the fair on the six days of the week, there can be no harm in keeping the gates open on Sunday, but no machinery should be in operation, all amusements closed, simply using the fair grounds as a park for the education and enlightenment of the public who desire some place to spend the day. They can attend divine worship both morning and evening, but a continuous performance at the church will not be attended by people who enjoy the afternoon, communing with nature, studying the arts and sciences viewing the wonderful productions of nature, and discussing the beautiful exhibits displayed.

It is seldom that enthusiastic mem-

bers of churches, and the proprietors of dives, salons, theaters and places of amusement agree upon any subject, but there seems to be a unanimity of sentiment among both classes to have the gates of the fair closed on Sunday. In advocating this, the Astorian does not recede from its policy relative to strict Sunday observance. It insists that if the gates of the fair are closed on Sunday, so should the doors of all saloons and places of amusement, and that it is not equitable or just to insist on closing the gates and leaving the vile dens of iniquity open.

There are a large number of people who do not recognize Sunday as the Sabbath day. The Jews and Seven Day Adventists recognize Saturday, but no one ever hears any demand from them for closing the gates on that day.

They believe that everyone has a right to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience, and that no sect or creed has any right to dictate to any other sect or creed what day they shall observe as the holy Sabbath day. These are old puritanical dogmas, promulgated through the old Blue Laws of Connecticut, which even the most skeptical would not dare to indorse in this day and generation. Sunday observance at the Lewis and Clark fair should be left to the dictates of one's own conscience and not subject to dictation from one class, who are no doubt honest in their convictions. The laws of Oregon prohibit the opening of any place for the purpose of traffic or amusement on Sunday and it ought to be enforced. Not against one, but all. If one class of amusements are allowed to remain open, all should. There should be no discrimination.

POLITICAL FALLACY.

Political suicide is exemplified in Clatsop county in the election of two democrats to the lower house of the state legislature. The legislative assembly of the state is always republican, and Clatsop county is the only county in the state of 700 majority that elects democrats to the legislature. In the assignment of committees, where the most effective work is done, Burns and Laws are on the tail end of two unimportant committees. They will have absolutely no influence in securing legislation and can only hold down the two chairs provided by the state for representatives from Clatsop county. In the senate Tuttle is chairman of one of the most important committees besides being a member of three other important committees and is the only man from Clatsop county that is in a position to secure needed legislation. With two democrats in the house he is handicapped, as he can not secure any influence from either Burns or Laws. Both are honorable gentlemen and desire to serve their constituents, but a democrat in a legislature that is overwhelmingly republican is of about as much use as a snowball in Gehenna.

It is about time that the republicans of Clatsop county realized this fact. The cry of "ring" and "political bosses," is all tommyrot. The party must have a head and must be managed, and if some of the republicans would only vote for the candidates nominated, and not against the management, Clatsop county would have a representation in the legislature that would be able to accomplish beneficial results. At every session of the legislature where the representatives have been republican, Clatsop county exerted as much influence as Multnomah or any other county and secured more legislation. Members are elected to the legislature for their ability to secure legislation, not because republicans do not admire them personally. If a man is a republican let him be one, or else unite with the democratic party. Every democrat elected in the city of Astoria and Clatsop county is elected by republican votes, but no republican has ever been elected by democratic votes. The democrats are consistent, the republicans are actuated by malice or a "get even" policy for some imaginary grievances. "Ye cannot serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

SHOULD NOT PASS.

Representative Bingham has introduced a bill in the legislature taking away the power of municipal corporations to regulate street improvements within the cities and towns and vesting the authority in the legislature. The bill provides that whenever any incorporated city within this state, the common council, board of trustees, or other competent authority of such city,

shall have proceeded to improve any street or part of street, or lay any sewer within the corporate limits thereof, and shall have assessed the cost of such improvement or sewer to the property benefitted thereby, or liable therefor, according to the provisions of the charter of such city. It shall be lawful for the owner of any property so assessed for such an improvement or sewer in the sum of \$25 or more, at any time within 10 days notice of such assessment is first published, to file with the auditor, clerk or other city officer, who by the provisions of the charter thereof, keeps the records of such city, a written application to pay said assessments in installments, and to pay the same in ten equal installments, etc.

Just what right or authority Bingham has to interfere with the manner of doing business in a municipal corporation is not known, but the question of making street improvements and the manner of collecting assessments therefor, is a matter that does not concern the legislature of the state of Oregon, or any member thereof, except so far as securing the enactment of charters for the government of cities and the people residing in such cities are more competent to judge as to how it shall collect money for street improvements than Mr Bingham. That power is delegated to the city, and the legislature has no power or authority to take such rights away from the city, without the consent of the city, and such an act would be void and of no effect. Representative Bingham has just as much right to legislate for Kansas as for the cities and towns of Oregon. Astoria is fully competent to attend to the management of its municipal affairs and without any dictation from Mr. Bingham or anyone else. Clatsop county has elected three members of the legislature and any change in the charter of Astoria will be entrusted to them, and if at any time Mr. Bingham's services are required in formulating any amendments to the charter, he will be notified by the mayor and common council.

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